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COR-0434

Copy 3 of 10

24 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DPD
THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Branch, DPD
SUBJECT :
(Briefing Regarding CHALICE, GUSTO
and CORONA)

1. In accord with our conversation, Assistant to T. Keith Glennan, Director, NASA, was given a general briefing on 23 April regarding the current status of CHALICE, the GUSTO feasibility study, and our responsibility for CORONA.

2. As you are aware has been designated by Mr. Glennan as the NASA Liaison Officer to this Agency. In this capacity he has frequent contact with Dr. Scoville, Assistant Director, Office of Scientific Intelligence. He also handles matters of concern to Mr. Glennan in connection with the latter's responsibility as a member of the President's Space Council. In this way has a concern for our CORONA/DISCOVERER Program.

3. It was pointed out to that we have not discussed GUSTO in detail with Mr. Glennan or Dr. Hugh Dryden, and this Program is very closely held within all elements of Government. In view of the potential NASA assistance to GUSTO, I recommend this Staff afford Mr. Glennan, Dr. Dryden and a more comprehensive GUSTO briefing on finalization of the feasibility effort. If you agree, we will follow this and initiate such a briefing in a few months when appropriate.

NRO and NASA review(s)
completed.

Security Officer
DPD-DD/P

CONCUR PARA 3:
EX J. A. C. Jr.
27 Apr 1959
for WILLIAM BURKE
Acting Chief, DPD

In view of Dick Horner's shift to NASA, believe such briefing especially important and timely.

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Mr. Bissell indicated that Gen. Flickinger will continue to be the senior point of contact with ARDC on pilot systems and that a meeting with him prior to Mr. Bissell's departure for Rome (6 May) is desirable.

ACTION: Mr. Cunningham

4. CORONA MEETING - [] reported on the 23 April CORONA meeting. The first CORONA shot will be 8 June, the second will be on 18 June. At the present pace, if slippage continues, the shots will last until December. With this in mind, a reassessment of the schedule will be made in a month's time. 25X1

Alternate pay loads were discussed at the meeting and all parties are favorably disposed. They would include geophysical-type items, TV-type equipment, AEC battery package (the latter's only value is for propaganda).

Camera #4 has been removed and camera #5 is being used in tests. Camera #4 has been returned to ITEX for reworking.

25X1 [] commented that we will need advance notice on approval problem. Mr. Bissell stated it looked favorable.

25X1 [] reported that Col. Shepherd is expected to leave at the end of the week for his new assignment with Gen. Schriever.

The next shot will test the sun indicator device.

A session was held on counter measures to be used in case of (1) equipment failure (e.g. no communications), (2) jamming, (3) and false commands when gate open (17 minutes). It was felt that CIA might be able to help with technical advice on (2) and (3) above and Mr. Bissell suggested that any input would be welcome.

25X1 [] stated that the DISCOVERER II shot was considered technically successful. (A later meeting with Col. Mathison disclosed that he is convinced that the reported descent of the nose cone in Spitzbergen Islands was a fact, that it had not been recovered by anyone and probably would not be, due to the roughness of terrain there.)

Shake tests have been conducted successfully at 4 G's. Tests are expected to go as high as 7 G's on Camera #5.

25X1 Mr. Bissell asked [] to prepare a paper by mid-May, summarizing findings on alternate packages, taking into account when the operations become of marginal utility in autumn and when operations might profitably start in the spring.

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Mr. Bissell directed that in September a hard look be taken at the program with possibly an eye to giving more responsibility to the Air Force, particularly in procurement.

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APPROVED:

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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